



Instructions for FTP of Upper Air Data to NCDC

Upper Air Data Continuity Study

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National Weather Service/Office of Operational Systems
Field Systems Operations Center/Observing Systems Branch**

FTP Instructions for FTP of Upper Air Data to NCDC Using WS_FTP95

1. Before starting the FTP program, rename the zip file you created earlier with the Fastlynx instructions by right-clicking the zip file in the “uatrans” folder. Use the form xxxxmyy.zip, where “xxxx” is the station name, “mm” is the month, and “yy” the year.
 - a. Example: McGrath, Alaska for June 2007 is pamc0607.zipNote: All letters must be lower-case, as capital letters will not be received
2. Click on the WS_FTP95 icon to start the FTP program
3. A box titled “Session Properties” should open first if the program has already been set up for use.
 - a. If so, click “OK” to proceed.
 - b. If not, instructions for setting up a connection follow:

How to create a new connection if the program was not previously set up for use:

Click on “connect” at the lower part of the main FTP program screen when it opens, and the “session properties” box will appear. In the fields under the “General” tab (above), enter:

- a. Profile Name: FTP NCDC
- b. Host Name/Address: <ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov>
- c. Host Type: Automatic Detect
- d. User ID: Anonymous
- e. Password: wsftp605@
- f. Account: <leave blank>
- g. Comment: <leave blank>

Then, click the “Startup” tab to the right of “General.” In the “Initial Remote Site Folder” box, enter /pub/upload. In the “Initial Local Folder” box, enter the path to the location of your “uatrans” folder. This is usually c:\uatrans.

4. Click “Apply” then “OK” to proceed.
5. The program should automatically connect to NCDC as shown in the lower status window.
6. In the left box, you should see a list of the files to be transferred, since the program should automatically load the contents of the “uatrans” folder.
7. Make sure the “binary” button in between the two boxes is checked.

8. Scroll down the left box and find the .zip folder you created, and click it once. Click the arrow in between the two boxes that points toward the right box. This will begin the transfer, and a progress window will appear.

You should see a “transfer complete” message in the lower window when it’s done. You may also see some type of message indicating “no such directory” before you see “transfer complete.” This appears to only to be a bug and doesn’t affect the actual transfer.

That completes your monthly file transfer to NCDC. An automated program at NCDC (Cron Job) will be looking for the 4-letter station identifier when it runs twice per day, usually at 23Z and 11Z. Your files will be “scraped” by the Cron Job after one of these times, and will then show up in the database where you can check for their receipt.

Go to the Upper Air Ingest/Archive web page at:

<http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/nwsonly/uaingest/index.html>

Username: nwsuser

Password: ihidfmp (which stands for “I hope I don’t forget my password”)

- a. Click the link “view files”, under the first section of the page titled “FTP Instructions for FTP of Upper Air Data to NCDC.”
- b. Click the appropriate year in the index list
- c. Click on the “inv” file for the appropriate year and month (ex: “inv0607.txt”). This brings up an inventory of Archive and Store files received for that month and year. Look for your station identifier and ensure an “X” marks receipt of each day’s Archive and Store files.

Section 1: Creating the Upper Air Data File

Copy ALL data from the floppy diskettes for 1 month of data into the same folder. (Ex. X:\Upperair\2002\Jan)

You MUST put the Archive and Store data in the file together with any forms.

The files in the folder should be named something similar to:

H001-H062 (ARCHIVE header files)

T001-T062 (ARCHIVE thermal files)

1001.s02-1062.s02 (STORE data files)

xxxx0102.wpd, where xxxx is a 4-letter station identifier

NOTE: You MUST include station name or they will be overwritten

Select all files in the folder

Right-click on files and select “add to ZIP”

NOTE: DO NOT right-click on the folder and “add to ZIP” as this will include the folder name on your PC as the path name when it extracts and your data will not be processed.

NOTE: Make sure that the “Save full path info” is NOT checked under the Folder Option. This will create a separate sub-folder and your data will not be processed.

The zip utility will open and prompt you for a name for your newly created zip file.

Section 2: Naming the File

File naming convention:

You **MUST** check and verify the ascension numbers and dates. The files should contain **ONLY** data for the **CURRENT** month, **NOT** the previous month nor the next month. Your store and archive disks from MicroART have only the current month's data on them, so, this should just be a cursory check.

Name the file according to the rules below:

NOTE: File Naming Conventions MUST be followed exactly! The files MUST be named correctly or they will not be retrieved.

xxxxmmyy.zip

Where:

- **xxxx is the 4-letter call sign for station**
- **mm is the 2-digit data month (01-12)**
- **yy is the last 2-digits of data year (01-99)**
- **.zip (NOT.exe)**

Example: kcar0102.zip

The files **MUST** be zipped with a file compression utility such as winzip or pkzip. **DO NOT** send a self-extracting executable file (.exe).

Enter the proper file name into the winzip utility when prompted.

Section 3: Setting up WS_FTP

NOTE: If WS_FTP is already set up, skip to Section 4: Using WS_FTP

If not already done, set up WS_FTP, and set up an FTP Profile for NCDC:

Double click the WS_FTP icon in the “Operations Shortcuts” Folder on the desktop.

Click “New”

In the “General” Tab:

Profile Name: FTP to NCDC

Host Name/Address: <ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov>

Host Type: Automatic Detect

User ID: anonymous

Password: your.name@email.address

In the “Start-Up” Tab:

Initial Remote Site Folder: /pub/upload

Initial Local Folder: X:\[Folder with UpperAir File]

(Example: X:\Upperair\2002\Jan\)

In the “Advanced” Tab:

Make sure the “Passive Transfers” box IS checked

Click “OK” to launch the WS_FTP program

Section 4: Using WS_FTP

Double click the WS_FTP icon in the “Operations Shortcuts” folder on the desktop

Find the Profile Name: FTP to NCDC

NOTE: The steps below should be the default settings for the task

Host Name/Address: <ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov>

Host Type: Automatic Detect

User ID: anonymous

Password: [your.name@email.address](#)

In the “Start-Up” Tab:

Initial Remote Site Folder: /pub/upload

Initial Local Folder: X:\[Folder with Upper Air File]

(Example: X:\Upperair\2002\Jan\)

In the “Advanced” Tab:

Make sure the “Passive Transfers” box IS checked

Click “OK,” this will launch the WS_FTP program

VERY IMPORTANT! Make sure the Binary mode radio button is selected!

Click “CANCEL” to pause, and “CONNECT” to start again, or just be patient, and WS_FTP will connect the NCDC /pub/upload folder to our X:\ drive folder identified above.

NOTE: All files are hidden at NCDC. You will not see any files, including yours.

Select the file you want to send on the Left (local) side (This is the .zip file created above).

“Push” the arrow (→) buttons (in the middle) to “push” the data from the Left (local) side to the NCDC side (right)

The FTP program will create a log .txt file confirming your transfer.

All Done!